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## How does the internet see you? - Personas

Monday, February 07, 2011

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**Personas** shows you how the Internet sees you. It is a critique of data mining, revealing the computer's uncanny insights and inadvertent errors. It is meant for the viewer to reflect on our current and future world where digital histories are as important, if not more important, than oral histories, and computational methods of condensing our digital traces are largely opaque and socially ignorant.

[Read more](#)

A [MIT Media Lab Personas project](#) tries to "create a data portrait of your online identity", ie shows how the internet sees or profiles you, in order to critique data mining. It's not new, but still interesting - if you've not come across it yet, [give it a go](#), or try it again if you first tried it in 2009, to see what's changed!

You just need to enter your full name [in the box](#). It seemed terrifyingly accurate (mostly!) in my case. Improbulus being a rather unusual name, I just put that in.

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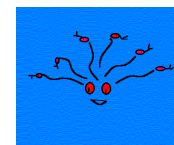
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**Improbulus**, London, UK

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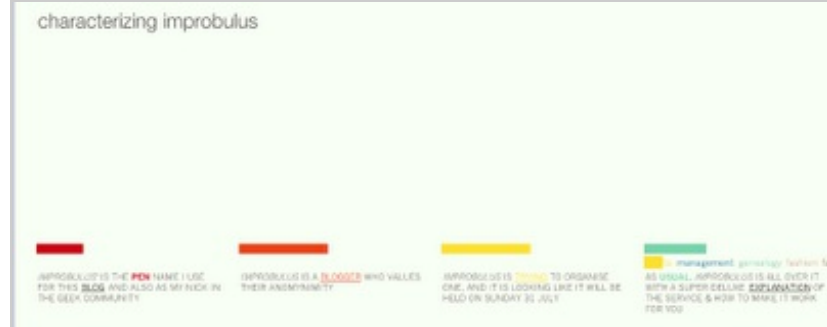
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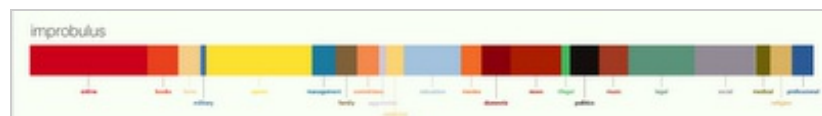
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It flashes through various screens, with statements supposedly about you, like these:



This apparently sums me up:



Of course if you share your name with other people, it may mix you all up - especially if one of your namesakes is more famous than you (perish the thought!), or at least has a higher profile on the Interwebs.

Still it's fun to try, though. And as your online footprint builds up, try it again in a few months or so and see how the results differ then! [How does the internet see you, what's your online profile?](#)

Labels: [fun](#), [privacy](#)

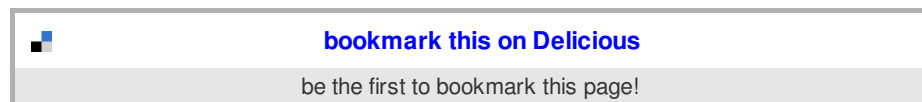
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## Gmail: how to view all unread Inbox email easily

Monday, January 31, 2011

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Here's how to see all your unread emails in at once in Gmail. I cover 2 alternative ways.

The first builds on [Gmail's Priority Inbox feature](#).

### How to set up Gmail to show priority emails and unread emails

This assumes you've already [turned on the Priority Inbox feature](#).

1. In Gmail, go to Settings.

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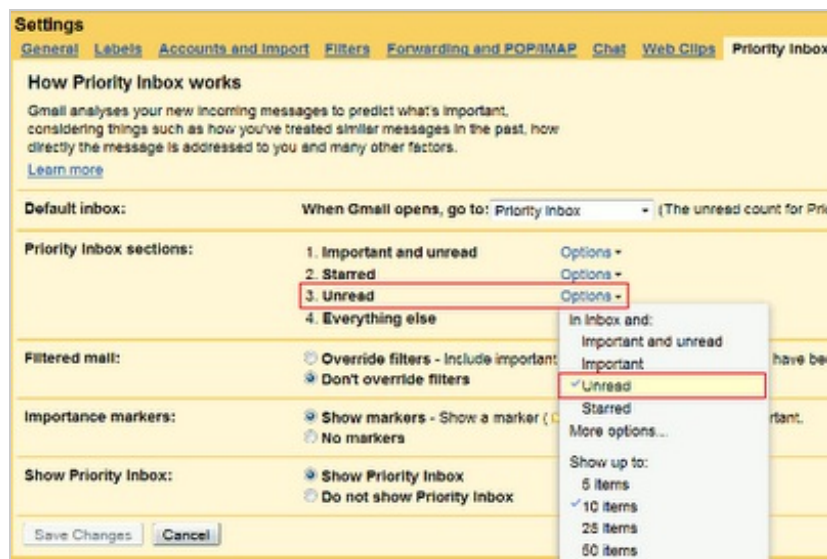
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	<b>cigarpoet</b>
	<b>vassomotor</b>

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2. Click the Priority Inbox tab (1).



3. In the Priority Inbox sections bit, item no. 3 probably reads "Empty" (2, above). Click on "Add section" (or the down arrow against that) for item no. 3, select Unread (3), then click Save Changes (bottom left) (4).
4. Now it should look like this, with Unread ticked:



5. From now on, when you go to your Priority Inbox in Gmail you'll see your email in sections or panels on the right, headed (going down) Important and Unread, Starred, Unread and Everything Else.
6. The line with the Unread heading has a "View all" link on the right so you can click that to see all your (in my case very many) Unread emails, all at once:



To me this is much more useful than the standard "Everything else" that you get in this section with the standard Priority Inbox.

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## Who Links Here?

**9898 OPEN RIGHTS GROUP**  
**Protecting**  
**your bits since**  
**10/12/07**  
**Founder # 551**

**I Power**  
**Blogger**

You can play around with this and display all the contents (up to the fixed max number of items for that pane) of a particular "folder" ie label in one of your panels too, eg the most recent 10 emails for label X. It's the "More options" bit of the Options.

## How to see all unread emails in Gmail using Multiple Inboxes

Don't want to use the Priority Inbox? You can still set up a section in your normal Gmail Inbox that shows all unread emails.

1. In Gmail, go to Settings, and click the Labs tab:



2. Now find the bit that say Multiple Inboxes, and click "Enable" so there's a blue dot next to "Enable":



3. Then scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Save changes".



4. Now go back to Settings, and there'll be a tab for Multiple Inboxes. Click that.



5. And you'll see something like this:

**Settings**  
General Labels Accounts and Import Filters Forwarding and POP/IMAP Chat Web Clips Priority Inbox Labs **Multiple Inboxes**

**Current searches for the multiple inboxes:**  
(leaving any of the boxes empty will remove thread panels from your inbox view. Removing all the searches will remove all the hottest panels.)

	Search query	Panel title (optional)
Pane 0:	is:starred	
Pane 1:	is:drafts	
Pane 2:		
Pane 3:		
Pane 4:		

Maximum page size: Show 9 conversations per page for the new inbox panes

Extra panels positioning:  
☐ Right side of the inbox  
☒ Above the inbox  
☐ Below the inbox

Save Changes Cancel

You can do what you like with that, more details below - but don't forget to Save changes when you're done. Basically, all this allows you to view your emails in a bunch of extra panes, whose contents are determined by Gmail searches. You can have up to 5 panes, numbered (internally by Gmail) 0 to 4.

The default when you first set up Multiple Inboxes is to show your starred email then draft emails, above your normal Inbox, as in the pic above. But you can change that.

Unlike the Priority Inbox, in the "Maximum page size" section of the Multiple Inboxes settings you can choose exactly how many emails you want to show per pane (with Priority Inbox the choice is limited to one of 5, 25 or 50 only) - eg 12, if you wish. Multiple Inboxes doesn't let you set the number of emails individually so that it's different for each separate pane, but maybe that'll come one day.

"Extra panels positioning", as it says, lets you position your set of extra panels where you wish - above your normal Inbox is the standard, or you can have them below or to the right of the Inbox. The extra panes display in the order 0 to 4, as you'd expect.

What can you do with those panes? "Panel title" lets you give each a heading of your choice eg "Unread email", as you'd expect.

To display all unread email in your Inbox (and **only** unread incoming email), **below** your normal Inbox, do this (make the Panel title whatever you wish), then Save changes:

**Settings**  
General Labels Accounts and Import Filters Forwarding and POP/IMAP Chat Web Clips Priority Inbox Labs **Multiple Inboxes**

**Current searches for the multiple inboxes:**  
(leaving any of the boxes empty will remove thread panels from your inbox view. Removing all the searches will remove all the hottest panels.)

	Search query	Panel title (optional)
Pane 0:	is:unread in:inbox	Unread inbox emails
Pane 1:		
Pane 2:		
Pane 3:		
Pane 4:		

Maximum page size: Show 9 conversations per page for the new inbox panes

Extra panels positioning:  
☐ Right side of the inbox  
☐ Above the inbox  
☒ Below the inbox

Save Changes Cancel

ie, in Pane 0 enter -  
is:unread in:inbox

and select "Below the inbox".

(In your Inbox, the "View all" link at the right edge of each pane's title will show you all unread incoming email, as with the Priority Inbox method above.)

To emulate the Priority Inbox but, in my view, make it much more useful, first [turn on the Priority Inbox feature](#), and then do this in the "Search query" boxes of your Multiple Inboxes settings:

In Pane 0 enter -



is:unread in:inbox is:important  
In Pane 1 enter -  
is:starred -in:inbox  
In Pane 2 enter -  
is:unread in:inbox

What this does is to put "important" email first (for what's treated "important" and how to influence that, see [my post on the Priority Inbox](#)).

Then starred email comes next, which is all starred email **except** for starred email that you've archived, hence the "-in:inbox". If however you want to see even **archived** starred email in that panel, just enter plain "is:starred" instead, without the in:inbox stuff.

Finally, the next pane shows all the unread email in your Inbox, without the clutter of all the **read** email in your Inbox. This is better than the usual Priority Inbox "Everything else" which shows in this pane, which isn't helpful at all, in my view.

Or, you can try this if you want all your starred (unarchived) emails on top, then your unread emails, then your "normal" inbox:

Pane 0 -

is:starred -in:inbox

Pane 1 -

is:unread in:inbox

Extra panels - Above the inbox.

Remember, you can make the panel titles anything you like. And you can experiment with other searches.

If in future you decide you don't want all this, to get rid of it again just go back to the Labs tab, click Disable against Multiple Inboxes and Save changes.

Labels: [Gmail](#), [Google](#), [tips](#)

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